

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical method for treating female urinary incontinence, said method comprising:

identifying a surgical exit point on a horizontal line above the urethral plane where a surgical needle will exit at a thigh of a patient,

making an incision of the vaginal wall,

performing a para-urethral dissection towards the ischio pubic ramus while avoiding a perforation of the vaginal wall,

rotating the surgical needle around the ischio pubic ramus, and

penetrating the previously identified surgical exit point from inside the patient with a tip of the surgical needle, and

attaching one of a string and a tube to the surgical needle after the tip of the surgical needle passes through the previously identified exit point.

2. - 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The surgical method as claimed in claim 3 1, wherein the surgical needle is rotated back towards the sub-urethral vaginal opening after the one of the string and the tube are attached to the surgical needle.

5. (Original) The surgical method as claimed in claim 4, where a tape is attached to the one of the string and the tube and the tape is pulled internally of the patient by removal of the one of the string and the tube from the exit point.

6. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ surgical needle as claimed in claim 7, wherein for use in treating female urinary incontinence, said surgical needle comprising:  
a handle,  
a straight section having two ends, one end of said straight section being connected to said handle, and  
a spiral section having two ends, one end of said spiral section being connected at a junction to the other end of said straight section,  
the other end of said spiral section being a free end terminating in a tip,

the tip of the spiral section ~~is being~~ located in a vertical plane located at a horizontal distance of 4 to 8 cm from the junction.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The A surgical needle as claimed in claim 7, wherein for use in treating female urinary incontinence, said surgical needle comprising:~~

a handle,

a straight section having two ends, one end of said straight section being connected to said handle, and

a spiral section having two ends, one end of said spiral section being connected at a junction to the other end of said straight section,

the other end of said spiral section being a free end terminating in a tip,

the tip of the spiral section ~~is being~~ spaced above the junction by, at the most, 3.5 cm.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The A surgical needle as claimed in claim 7, wherein for use in treating female urinary incontinence, said surgical needle comprising:~~

a handle,

a straight section having two ends, one end of said straight section being connected to said handle, and

a spiral section having two ends, one end of said spiral section being connected at a junction to the other end of said straight section,  
the other end of said spiral section being a free end terminating in a tip,  
the spiral section ~~has~~ having a diameter of 2 to 5 mm and a length of 6 to 18 cm.

12. (Original) The surgical needle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the tip of the spiral section includes an eyelet.

13. (Original) The surgical needle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the tip of the spiral section includes curled segments.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A surgical needle as claimed in claim 7, wherein for use in treating female urinary incontinence, said surgical needle comprising:

a handle,  
a straight section having two ends, one end of said straight section being connected to said handle, and  
a spiral section having two ends, one end of said spiral section being connected at a junction to the other end of said straight section,

the other end of said spiral section being a free end terminating in a tip,

the spiral section further ~~comprises~~ including one linear segment.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ surgical needle as claimed in claim 7, wherein  
for use in treating female urinary incontinence, said surgical needle comprising:

a handle,

a straight section having two ends, one end of said straight section being  
connected to said handle, and

a spiral section having two ends, one end of said spiral section being connected  
at a junction to the other end of said straight section,

the other end of said spiral section being a free end terminating in a tip,

the spiral section ~~has~~ having a diameter of 2 to 5 mm and a length of 4.5 to 17.6  
cm.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ surgical needle as claimed in claim 7, wherein  
for use in treating female urinary incontinence, said surgical needle comprising:

a handle,

a straight section having two ends, one end of said straight section being  
connected to said handle, and

a spiral section having two ends, one end of said spiral section being connected at a junction to the other end of said straight section,  
the other end of said spiral section being a free end terminating in a tip,  
said junction releasably ~~holds~~ holding the spiral section.

17. (Original) The surgical needle as claimed in claim 16, wherein the spiral section has a diameter of 2 to 5 mm and a length of 6 to 18 cm.

18. -22. (Cancelled)